Suspension of air taxi permits

1544. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Air Taxi permits of some private Airlines were suspended recently, due to security lapses;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken to ensure that the Private Airlines follow the prescribed safety guidelines in their aircrafts and helicopters ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Whenever licence is issued to a private air taxi operator, he is given a comprehensive set of security regulations to be followed by him. Officers of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security during their formal inspection of airports, brief the security staff of air taxi operators on civil aviation security. In addition, the Bureau also organises training programmes.

Arbitrary fares charged by the private airlines

1545. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to press news item captioned "No norms for air taxi fares" as reported in the Times of India dated the 14th January, 1993;

(b) if so, the facts and the details thereof;

(c) whether the private airlines operating in the country are charging fares according to the rules; and

(d) if not, the action Government propose to take against them ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The news item contains a report that the ticketing agents of an Air Taxi Operator charged exhorbitant fares from passengers.

(c) and (d) Under the guidelines for air taxi operations, there is no restriction on fares.

Reduction in Services of Air India

1546. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that while the airlines world over have been increasing their frequency on the contrary the Air India has scrapped one of its highly lucrative services in the New York-London-Ahmedabad sector and has been reducing services from the West to Delhi-Bombay;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the estimated loss suffered by Air India as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Air India has not scrapped any of its services on the New York-London-Ahmedabad sector nor has it reduced services from the West to Delhi/Bombay.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Development of Infrastructural facilities for Tourists in Karnataka

1547. SHRI PRABHAKAR B. KORE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Karnataka Government has sent a proposal to the Central Government for comprehensive and integrated project for the development of infrastructural facilities for tourists at an estimated cost of Rs. 110.60 crores with a provision of Japanese assistance during the year 1992-93; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The State Government of Karnataka have submitted a proposal with an estimated cost of Rs. 110.60 crores for the development of infrastructural facilities at selected tourist spots in Karnataka for financial assistance